

METHODISTS WILL MEET AT ROANOKE

128th Annual Session of Baltimore Conference Opens on March 26.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Charlotte, N. C., March 18.—A religious gathering that will interest especially the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church South in Maryland, the District of Columbia and part of Virginia and West Virginia will be the 128th annual session of the Baltimore Conference, which will convene in Roanoke on Tuesday of next week, March 26. The Baltimore Conference is one of the oldest conferences in the church, and it has a history that is filled with interest and the record of accomplishment.

The Baltimore conference is composed of seven districts—Baltimore, Washington, Winchester, Rockingham, Roanoke, Lewisburg and Moorefield districts. The number of traveling preachers in the conference is 225; the number of local preachers is 77, and the total number of members in the conference, according to the last report, is 59,000. It is probable that the report to be submitted by the pastors during the session of the conference this year will show an increase in membership during the year just closing.

During last year the rite of baptism was administered to 1,519 infants within the bounds of the Baltimore Conference, and the same rite was administered to 1,354 adults. Other interesting figures connected with the conference are the following: The number of Senior Epworth Leagues, 174, with a membership of 7,765; number of Junior Epworth Leagues, 96, with a membership of 2,651, giving a total membership of 10,416; number of Sunday schools, 697; number of officers and teachers, 5,571; number of Sunday school scholars, 55,932.

The last report submitted shows that last year the Baltimore Conference was assessed \$22,000 for the support of superannuated preachers and the widows and orphans of preachers, and that the conference paid on this assessment \$17,087; invested funds amounting to \$1,656 were reported for this cause also, giving a total amount contributed for conference claimants of \$19,743. The conference contributed for foreign missions \$17,087; for domestic missions, \$13,502; a special fund to the Western Virginia Conference of \$545; to church extension, \$3,456; to the American Bible Society, \$1,066. The total amount contributed for the support of the seven presiding elders was \$12,537; to the support of preachers in charge, \$147,938; and to the support of bishops, \$2,668.

Contributions for Education.
The educational statistics show that the conference contributed for educational extension \$12,149; for Randolph-Macon College, \$2,775; special amount contributed on Children's Day, \$1,205, making a total for educational extension of \$5,529. Under the joint patronage of the Baltimore Conference and the Virginia Conference are the educational institutions known as the "Randolph-Macon System," composed of Randolph-Macon College, at Ashland; Randolph-Macon Woman's College, at Lynchburg; Randolph-Macon Academy, at Front Royal; Randolph-Macon Academy, at Bedford City, and Randolph-Macon Institute, at Danville; the total value of the property of these institutions being \$92,334, and, additional to this, an endowment of \$23,354 on Randolph-Macon College, and \$211,599 on Randolph-Macon Woman's College. Additional to these, the Baltimore Conference has under its patronage the "Southern Seminary System," including the Southern Seminary, at Buena Vista, and the Alleghany Collegiate Institute, at Alderson, W. Va., with a total property value of \$122,000.

The presiding officer of the session of the conference which begins next week will be Bishop W. B. Murrah, of Jackson, Miss. This will be the first time that Bishop Murrah has held the Baltimore Conference, and his presidency will be anticipated with interest. He was elected to the episcopacy at the session of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, which was held in Asheville, in 1910, and while he is known to be a man of exceedingly modest personality, he is known also to be one of the ablest men in the college of bishops of his church. Before his election to the episcopacy, Bishop Murrah was president of Millsaps College, at Jackson, Miss., and his years of work there were marked by distinct success.

Fourth Time in Roanoke.
The first session of the Baltimore Conference held in Roanoke was in 1896; it was held there again in 1901 and again in 1908; hence this year will be the fourth time Roanoke has been the seat of the conference. The session this year will be held in the Belmont Church, which ranks third in strength of the seven Methodist churches in Roanoke. This church is composed of an active membership, under the leadership of Rev. J. H. Bean, who is the present pastor. The membership of this church will be assisted by the membership of other churches in extending most cordial welcome and hospitable entertainment to the conference.

GOOD ROADS SENTIMENT STRONG IN STAFFORD

Election on \$100,000 Bond Issue Set for April 18.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Fredericksburg, Va., March 18.—Since the agitation of the connecting link between Washington and Richmond of the Quebec-to-Miami highway route commenced the good road sentiment in Stafford county has rapidly increased. The people of that county are anxious for the road to come through Stafford and by Fredericksburg, as, indeed, are the people of the other counties surrounding Fredericksburg. For the past several weeks there has been considerable discussion of a possible bond issue in Stafford county for the improvement to the public highways, and Judge C. H. Chester has appointed April 18 as the time for holding an election on the question of issuing \$100,000 in bonds, this amount to be used in improving public roads in Stafford county. This action was taken in response to a petition signed by the necessary number of freeholders, as required by law, asking for a special election. The amount will be apportioned to the different principal roads of the county. The trial of J. P. Jones, charged

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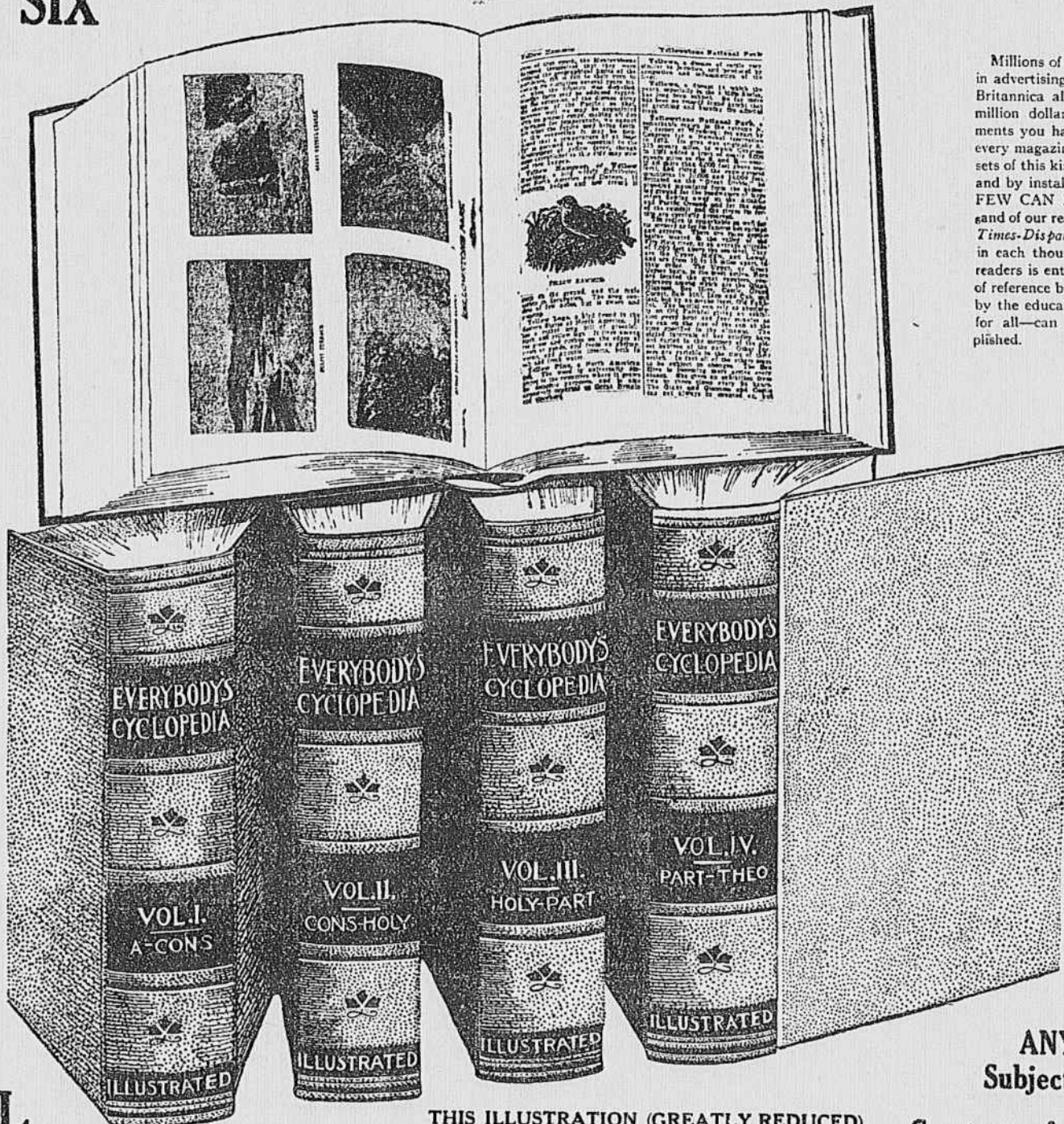
"hot tom," and had mixed the two Byrd law concerning the sale of cider, which was appealed from the decision of the Justice's Court, where he had been fined \$50 and costs, resulted in the trial in the Circuit Court of Stafford county in the acquittal of Jones. It turned out that Jones had sold nothing intoxicating, but that he had sold gold apple cider and a drink called

washouts and injuring some of the bridges over the stream. Bishop R. A. Gibson, of the Diocese of Virginia, visited the Episcopal Churches here yesterday, preaching at St. George's in the morning and at Trinity at night to a large congregation at each church, and confirming a class at each church. C. L. Reid, of this city, who has

been the engineer in charge of the big power house now being constructed here, and was connected with other engineering work of the company owning the water power in this city, has been appointed to look after extensive engineering at Waynesville, N. C., and will leave for that place in a short time. The published account of the sale

of Gilbert Stuart's painting of George Washington for \$16,100 at a sale in Philadelphia, has caused much interest here, as Lodge No. 4 of Masons, of this city, has a handsome portrait of Washington, which was painted by Stuart, and which is valued highly by the lodge, which has a number of

New Superintendent of Schools. Harrisonburg, Va., March 18.—Phillip Williams, of Woodstock, has been elected superintendent of schools in Shenandoah county. He takes the place made vacant by the death of Rev. L. L. Smith, D. D., of Strasburg. He is a son of W. T. Williams, and a law graduate of Washington and Lee University.



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